Report of Quality Council of India on Pathological Laboratories

*472. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the core point in the report of Quality Council of India with special reference to pathological laboratories which are considered to be the backbone of medical profession;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of 25 lakh tests conducted every day, only one lakh are carried out in accredited laboratories and out of one lakh laboratories in India, only 100 are accredited by National Accredition Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL);

(c) the measures taken or being taken to set right this alarming situation; and

(d) the time-frame within which it can be done?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) As per information received from Quality Council of India (QCI), they have not published any report on pathological laboratories in India.

Accreditation of laboratories is done by the National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (NABL) which is an autonomous body, set up by QCI for the accreditation of testing and calibration of laboratories which include medical laboratories. Under the process of Laboratories Accreditation, NABL gives formal recognition of technical competence for specific tests/measurements, based on third party assessment. Accreditation is a voluntary process wherein Laboratories apply for accreditation to the accreditation body for assessment against an International Standard, ISO 15189 in this case.

NABL as on date has acoredited 88 medical laboratories with varying scope for each laboratory depending upon the competence of the laboratory and report from the expert assessors.

For developing minimum standards for clinical establishments including diagnostic labs., the clinical establishments (Registration & Regulations) Bill, 2007, has already been introduced by this Ministry in Parliament. When enacted into a law, it will improve quality of health services by prescribing minimum standards for facilities & services with a view to standardizing health care services in the country.

Death of children due to Pneumonia

†*473. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WEFLARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children who die due to pneumonia each year in the country, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for high rate of child mortality due to this disease, in some States; and

(c) whether Government will contemplate certain steps to prevent this disease by preparing an action plan in those States where the child mortality rate is comparatively higher than in the other States?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) According to the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), the total number of pneumonia cases and deaths in the country for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively are as follows:

(i) 2005:—Cases—774023, Deaths—3513
(ii) 2006:—Cases—681560, Deaths—3342
(iii) 2007:—Cases—660390, Deaths—2865

The State-wise details for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 are given in Statement I, II & III respectively (*See* below). However, age specific Pneumonia mortality data for the country is not available.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.